

Dear Durham City Council:

As local business owners, we are always looking at ways to expand our businesses; additionally, we want to improve the quality of life in our community. We know that investing in solar energy is a way to do both.

Solar development in Durham means bringing a large number of new jobs to the area, from the development of cutting edge technology to the installation of solar panels on rooftops across the city. As business owners, we see the opportunity this presents. After all, more jobs means a broader customer base for us.

Additionally, increasing our reliance on solar means less pollution into our air and water. Our current reliance on fossil fuels leads to health problems that result in lost days of work and higher overall healthcare costs.

Solar power is currently taking off in North Carolina. In 2014, North Carolina added the second largest amount of solar energy capacity in the country. North Carolina has nearly double the solar potential of Germany, the world leader in solar energy. In fact, Environment North Carolina's recent report *Star Power* found that solar power can easily supply 20% of North Carolina's electricity by 2030. Durham has huge potential to set itself apart as a national leader in solar energy and serve as an example to other North Carolina cities.

We support Durham setting a bold goal to meet 15% of its energy needs with solar power by 2030. Enacting pro-solar policies that encourage this goal will create new jobs in the city, help sustain economic growth, and clean up the air we breathe—all of which will help Durham and our businesses grow.

We ask you to support bold policy action to spur the growth of solar energy in Durham.

Sincerely,

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